AN ADVENTURE OF UNCLE SAM'S DETECTIVES

How Billy Gard Ran Down Perpetra- once during the evening he had drifted into the library, which happened to be empty of guests, and had tors of a Plot to Loot the New Beaufort Bank

five having such an account who can liabilities, inquiring into the value of tell the amount of it."

This statement was launched during town of New Beaufort, which slum-

church dower, boarded with Mrs. Hudson. tell the amount of it to a penny."

schol teacher. serted a widow who had collected life themselves.

insurance.

to the gentlemen who will set down self into his consciousness. the exact amount of his or her inacrect by application to the cashier."

had been drawn into the controversy. Next day they asked for the figures, loans and discounts." and each had won his reward. Gard So Newton hurried back to New seemed chagrined that his theory Beaufort and was that night a guest but he cheerfully stood treat.

This was one of the first steps in an of the detective force of the Federal gate. Representing himself as a Street.

bookkeeper he had secured employ- For this reason Agent Gard got the

sponsible for it, showed the methods used, cited the accounts from which the money had been stolen, told what accounts were still intact. Yet he had never been inside the bank, had seen none of its books, had consulted with nobody familiar with them, had rewhich he accomplished these ends il-

It was a strange conspiracy of circumstances that brought to New Beaufort detectives from three difmonths later, that Conrad Compton,

was giving his big party. There was McCord, a plain clothes man from New York. McCord would not have been in New Beaufort but for the ramifications of the New York for the ramifications of the New York sary of that occasion when the first citement that prevailed. Stone Crest, found opportunities, without seeing the village to make part of t through the trade of burglary-a calling that is sometimes refined into art. And the police department would not have come into possession of a certain tip if Speck Thompson had not served a term in prison and returned to his old haunts so broken that he chose to become a stool pigeon because was no longer up to second story

Speck had found that Dutch Shroder had arranged to crack a safe and that the scene of the cracking was New Beaufort. He had informed the

T is astonishing," said Gard, the by Ogram Newton, a bank examiner bookkeeper, "how few people in the service of the Treasury Department anything about their ment. His district was central New own business. Take bank ac- York. For three years he had been counts, for instance. Many people taking an occasional look into the bave money in bank which lies there There is not one man in of his district, checking up assets and

the paper held by the banks.
Two weeks before Conrad Compton the evening meal at Mrs. Hudson's gave his party Newton had been in in the house of the banker on the hill boarding house in the prosperous little New Beaufort and had gone thortown of New Beaufort, which slum-bers in one of the valleys of central Its books were models of efficiency and there was no flaw to be found in "I must take issue with you there," any of its securities or loans. Newton! ventured the elderly rector of the had given the institution his O. K. being a and had passed on to other towns.

But a feeling of unrest haunted the I, for instance, have managed to save young examiner. It seemed that his little money for old age and I can subconscious mind was aware of an the amount of it to a penny." oversight that had been made by his "And I know just how much I have working faculties. He was not able on deposit," insisted Miss Dolan, the to sleep well of nights and in his deposited its last late revellers at 11:30. sleep the various accounts of the New "And I am quite sure of mine," as- Beaufort bank insisted on visualizing intersections occasionally sputtered fit-

Finally the recurring accounts elim-"As a test of my contention." said mated themselves with the exception plant Gard, "I am willing to pledge a box of of one which persisted. The loans and candy to each of the ladies and clgars discounts account kept thrusting it-

"By Jove!" he exclaimed suddenly tive account in the First National to himself. "The entries in that ac-Bank and then prove the figures cor- count, the amounts of money that have been run through it, are out of all This proposal appealed to those who proportion to the other business of the institution. Something is wrong with

should have thus gone to the winds, at the party given by Conrad Compton, whom he had built up a friend-For he had established a fact very ship through years of association in important to him. The inactive ac- the line of his work. He was to take counts of the First National Bank of a further look at the loans and discounts on the morrow.

investigation of a financial institution prosecutor in cases of violations of the which, while seemingly in the best of national banking law. Its work is en- finally broke up. Those of the townscondition, was suspected of raving tirely apart from that of the bank exbeen looted of hundreds of thousands aminers of the Treasury Department. of dollars. Special agents of the De- The New York office of this service. partment of Justice at Washington as a matter of daily routine, received knew that an official of the bank had the information that David Lorance been trading heavily in Wall Street assistant cashier of the First National and that he had lost. Gard, a member Bank of New Beaufort, was regularly placing heavy buying and selling or-Government, had been sent to investi- ders with a certain broker in Wa'l

ment with the leading grocer of the assignment to go to New Beaufort and town and had come to board with Mrs. was thus the representative of the third detective service. His windows at the grocery store looked out upon of that time he reported the shortage, the side door of the bank opposite fixed the blame upon the man re- He was bland and inconspicuous, but he was an expert accountant, had taken a degree in the law and worked three nights a week in the gymnasium in New York when he was in town.

just back of the town. It was known as Stone Crest and was the most amceived no confessions. The manner in bitious establishment thereabout, being always pointed out with pride to lustrates the methods used by this visitors. The banker was a widower new detective agency of the Govern- but given to entertainment and to charity.

The members of the Board of Aldermen often met at Stone Crest to discuss matters that had to do with the on the night, two well being of the town. Teas were given there whenever its charitable the enterprising citizen and banker, women were inaugurating some new venture. The party to-night was a There was McCord, a plain clothes man from New York. McCord would memoration of a centennial anniver-

> Conrad Compton was a tall, graceful. Conrad Compton was a tall, graceful.
>
> nervous man with a high forehead and a mass of wavy hair. His features were of perfect regularity and the whole face was so small as to give it.
>
> differently from his fellows by failing to do the thing which others did. He crossed over from the hill on which he had smoked and hastily entered the whole face was so small as to give it.

ened by its absolute pallor. Ogram Newton, the bank examiner, ceived his guests, as he directed their entertainment by a party of profes- he evidently had business. sionals who had been brought up from a community that was far from metro-The second service was represented what accentuated.

found the host peering out of a window that commands a view of the

"I trust you will pardon my preoccupation," said the banker, turning again to his guests, "I seem to have a way of feeling lonesomest when I have most company.'

McCord, the plain clothes man, had vacillated between his hotel, the railway station and those streets that gave views of the alleys leading past the back ends of establishments that might contain safes worth rifling. Occasionally his eye fell upon the lights and wandered to the chief financial estabilshment of the town. Yet all was so serene in this eddy of the world that the hour of solltude that followed 11 o'clock seemed such an age that it drove him to bed.

As the time drew on toward 12 there was no sign of life in the village. The lights in the drug stores, the restauselves out. The owl car of the trolley line that ran through the village had The swinging are lights at the street fully and glared again. A dynamo whirred distantly at the electric light

Gard, the special agent of the Department of Justice, was one of the few men in the town who were awake in addition to those who had been guests of the banker and who had lingered to an hour which was almost unprecedented in New Beaufort. They would have gone home at 11, but the banker insisted that they remain for further entertainment on the part of his New York musicians.

One song called forth another and the quality of the music proved so much more pleasing than that of their customary local talent that they forgot the passing of time. The special agent sat on a hill near the Compton home and smoked a pipe.

It was 12 o'clock before the party people who had come in their automobiles were being tucked into the tonneaus and those who had walked up the gray macadam drive were just setting out on foot when the clatter as of a bunch of giant firecrackers called their attention to the village below From the bank building was seen suddenly to burst a cloud of smoke, while a moment later a skylight was broken and a tongue of flame leaped forth. "Fire! Fire!" came the shout from

a dozen voices. Gard had seen more than had the guests of the banker. As he smoked his pipe and watched the village bethe lights in the windows of Stone ance, the assistant cashier, he had seen an automobile, with no lamp showing, creep through the quiet back street, purr stealthily into the alley back of the bank and stop behind a small building that shut off his view. Half an hour passed and the darkened machine reappeared from behind the thoroughfare leading to the southeast and disappeared in the distance at an

ever increasing rate of speed. When the expleding cartridges in the first warning of the fire the clamor similar request, made with the same later traced to the "Dutch" Schrode ran for a nearer view of the fire. The musicians, the servants, the master personal checks to some other account, clamor incident to the burning of the of the house himself, all hurried into probably loans and discounts.

the rooms of the house, snapping on amount in the passbook of that indistill more lights until he found that vidual as a receipt. Then instead of watched his host narrowly as he re- apartment which seemed to be the entering the money to the depositor's

out even examining them. began further exploration.

When he found the banker's bed-

room he seemed satisfied. On the back of a chair was a coat, evidently that which Compton had worn until he dressed for the evening. Gard thrust his hand into the inside pocket of his coat and pulled out a batch of letters, through which he ran rapidly. Me selected two or three, thrust them into his pocket, returned for the ledgers, tucked these under his arm

and left the house. On the way to his lodgings he filed a telegram to the Department at Washington which read as follows:

Compton, cashier in First National Bank case, guilty. Lorance probably not implicated. Bank burned to-night by accomplices of Compton. Case com-

The manner in which these conclumethods of the sleuths of the Departnent of Justice. Gard had come to playing the market with the funds of from the inside. the bank. Lorance was known to be broker.

expensive establishment, entertained occasion. lavishly, was often absent from town, was nervous, high strung, in bad health.

All these facts led him to watch the testing of the condition of the bank's of the side door with two books of the accounts.

of a bank in appropriating money had to charge it to some account to make the books balance. The large, inactive probably the books that showed his accounts offer a tempting opportunity guilt. of this sort; but these were found to be intact by his ruse of inducing the night saw the silent car stop back of depositors to call for their balances.

It was to get a better line on the business of the community and par-ticularly upon the accounts of Compployment as bookkeeper in Joy's gro-cery store. Here he found, in the first place, that the buying for the Compton the cashier might be destroyed. nome was wasteful. He found further that the bills were always paid with-out question and by check. Knowing of an old trick that has brought many cashier to ruin, Gard sought a way found their way to the personal ac-, no probability of coming under

Crest and the silent cottage of Lor- an opportunity to cash personal checks with the men found to have committed and destroy them when they come in the arson, for collection, charging the amount to some account where it might temporarily be hidden. To determine whether or not these personal checks were being juggled by the cashier Gard, as the grocer's bookkeeper, found a pretext to send to the bank for a Compton had entered the amounts intervening building, turned into the Compton's which he had handled a This latter was the account that had few days earlier.

count of the cashier.

The call was made while Compton bank examiner. not be found. Through another dealer the banker's pockets, though the cashier's drawer at the bank gave Gard succeeded in getting a second signed and mysteriously phrased, were of the alarm followed. Of the dis- result. He concluded that Compton gang. persing group on the hill every one was at least juggling his personal ac- Cord, the plain clothes man, who had count and charging the amount of his slept peacefully through all

Gard, the special agent, again acted counts were being juggled. This was peration he confessed his crimes and

whole face was so small as to give it banker's house.

somewhat the appearance of that of a somewhat the appearance of that of a Arriving he seemed to know exactly in the world. When a depositor hands tence to ten years in the penitentiary at Atlanta. personal retreat of the owner. Here credit the cashier puts it in his pocket.

Thus there is nothing to show for Standing in the middle of the floor the transaction but the entry in the police, and hence McCord's presence in less were served. He thought the

INTO A GIANT

Next he A True Story of the Greatest Federa Detective Agency, the Depart-

of misappropriation discovered. New Beaufort with a suspicion that looting when the facts might not have New Heaufort with a suspicion that looking when the facts might be the facts of the market with the funds of from the inside.

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Gard's case was about completed work in their chosen profession. placing orders with a Wall Street and the Department was ready to act when the dramatic denouement came. At the boarding house Gard learned Arson, suicide and flight are the three that Lorance lived modestly in a cot- events most to be expected when the tage with his wife and babies, had not funds of a bank have been misapprobeen seen to make any display of priated. The young special agent was money, was of sturdy farmer stock, watching for any of these at the time On the other hand the investigator of the anniversary party given by the immediately picked up the facts that banker. It was in preparation for the cashier, Compton, maintained an either that he watched so late on that

the entertainment Gard was working over his books at the store and at the same time keeping an eye on the cashler rather than his assistant. They bank. An hour after closing time at ed him also to some experimental the bank he saw Compton come out institution under his arm. He could He knew that a dishonest employee make out that one was leans and discounts. He surmised that they might be records that were to be destroyed-

When from the hillside Gard that the bank and the flames subsequently break out, he knew what had on that the special agent secured em- bank of any remaining funds and, acgro- cording to agreement, had set it on

record of some personal checks of representing all his personal checks. dwelt in the mind of Newton, the

WOMEN DOCTORS OF CHINA.

ment of Justice

of discovering the shortage.

On the afternoon which preceded

The wily cashier, however, had made sure that the books that showed his guilt would not be found, in case the plan was not an entire success. to test these personal checks to de-termine whether or not they actually not as yet destroyed them, for he saw mediate suspicion. Likewise he had The cashier of a bank is usually the neglected to destroy certain correndividual who opens the mail and has spondence that later connected him

The books taken from the bank-

was out at lunch and the checks could The letters that Gard had found in

THAT the native women physiclans have played an important part in the development of police, and hence alcoords presence in the development of the accommunity that was far from metropolitan. He represented the first of the detective services.

The second service was represented

The second service was represented to the detective services.

The second service was represented to the development of the deve

RESERVOIR

As far as the books of the bank are health and medicine in that country. concerned they are as though the All these native women doctors, acdeposit had never been made, and the cording to the commission, are doing bank examiner, therefore, has no way useful work, while two or three of discovering the shortage. them are unusually efficient and demonstrate a high degree of prohe worked, made several deposits, and fessional skill and executive ability. upon one pretext and another sent to There are at present in China three

the assistant cashler of the bank for medical institutions open to women the record of them in the absence of compton. They did not show on the for Women, which has been in existaccount of the grocery store and the ence fourteen years and has graduated matter was passed over as a misunder- about sixty-eight women physicians; standing. But so was a second avenue the North China Union Medical College for Women, which was estab-Thus was the special agent able lished in 1908 and where the faculty sions were reached are typical of the from the outside to get very good consists of five men and five women, leads into the condition of the bank and the Woman's Medical College of and to determine the manner of its Soochow, which was opened in 1891. According to the commission of the

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TURNING

HE Berough of Richmond is mountain water in the years to come. The Silver Lake reservoir will conthe great aqueduct reaching southward from the Catskills, and there-

decades to come.

At one time during the excavating a big stratum of peatlike earth was incovered and for a while it was feared that this material might rise with the flooding of the reservoir and possibly end in clogging the mains.

SILVER LAKE

forming, so to speak, an enormous flagon to hold its fill of stitute a year hence the terminal of after Staten Islanders will have no reason to complain either of the character or of the quantity of their

water supply. Silver Lake of old nestled well nigh on the rocky crest of the borough, and the work of transformation has consisted in digging deeper the natural waterbed and smoothing out the contours so that fully 435,000,000 gallons of water could be stored there When the reservoir is finished. Considering the present population of the sland this supply looks ahead for

For the past eighteen months and more the contractors have been busy clearing and grubbing something like twenty-five acres, while they have removed as much as \$3,000 cubic yards of top soil. Big steam shovels, puffing ocomotives and trains of dump cars have been actively engaged in this work of transformation. It has not sufficed alone to dig and grub, for a considerable part of the task has been that of solidifying the banks of the and securing them against the crosive action of the surface waters coating them with a carefully laid

tributed, so that to-day the prime di-beers in charge it was found possible to overcome this potential menace.

Many thousands of cubic yards of this basin will eventually be cut in two sections laterally by means of as occasion may require.

This big

riprap of heavy cobblestones.

Working on the Silver Lake reservoir on Staten Island.

tributed, so that to-day the prime di- a great concrete dike or dam, which dividing wall or dike has its base more than \$821,000 and up to the

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